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faunal and economic ornithology it is a most welcome addition to our literature, and furnishes a model for similar works in other places. We congratulate the authors. L. J.

Some Birds of the Fresno District, California. By John G. Tyler. The Cooper Ornithological Club. Pacific Coast Avifauna Number 9. Hollywood, October 1, 1913.

This paper makes no claims to completeness, but is rather presented now that it may furnish a working basis for a future complete survey of the region which occupies the exact geographical center of the state. It is a lowland of not over 400 feet elevation, and lies within the Lower Sonoran Zone. The author states that the steady reduction of the swampy areas by drainage marks the doom of such nesting birds as depend upon the cover afforded by such a swampy environment. The check-list of species, which precedes the General Account of the Species, gives 161 species. The treatment is systematic, and each species named is accompanied with copious annotations relating to the occurrences, relative abundance, migration, nesting, food habits, and many side lights upon the life of the birds. We are seldom treated, in a paper of this sort, with such a wealth of interesting things as this author presents. May his tribe increase! In paper, typography, and general appearance this latest number of the California Avifauna series maintains the high standard set at the inception of the series. L. J.

Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections. Three papers by Edgar A. Mearns.

Vol. 61, No. 10. Descriptions of four new African Thrushes of the Genera *Planesticus* and *Geocichla*. August 11, 1913. One is a new species — *Planesticus helleri* — from Mount Mbololo, altitude 4,000 feet, east of Mount Kilimanjaro, British East Africa, collected November 9, 1911, by Edmund Heller, on the Paul J. Rainey African Expedition. The other described forms are subspecies, one of *Planesticus*, the others *Geocichla*.

Vol. 61, No. 11. Descriptions of six new African Birds. August 30, 1913. "Four of the forms here described are from the collection made by the Childs Frick African Expedition, 1911-12; and two are from the Smithsonian African Expedition, 1909-10 collection, made under the direction of Col. Theodore Roosevelt." Five were collected by the author and one by Childs Frick. Five are new subspecies of *Cisticola*, one of *Pyromelana*.

Vol. 61, No. 14. Descriptions of Five New African Weaver-Birds of the Genera *Othyphantes*, *Hypargos*, *Aidemosyne*, and *Lagonosticta*. September 20, 1913. "Four of the forms here described are from the collections made by the Childs Frick African Expedition,

1911-12, and one from the Smithsonian African Expedition collection, 1909-10, under the direction of Col. Theodore Roosevelt." All were collected by the author. Two are new species and three subspecies.

L. J.

Notes on the Occurrence and Nesting of Certain Birds in Rhode Island. By Harry S. Hathaway. Reprinted from *The Auk*, Vol. XXX, No. 4, Oct. 1913.

"During the interval which has elapsed since the publication of the 'Birds of Rhode Island' by Howe and Sturtevant in 1899, and the supplement thereto in 1903, many records of rare and interesting birds have accumulated and are herewith published as a contribution to our knowledge of the avifauna of this state. The Western Willet, Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker, Evening Grosbeak, and Nelson's Sparrow have been added to the list of birds of the state. The Breeding of Henslow's Sparrow, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Pine Warbler, Water-Thrush, Winter Wren, and Hermit Thrush has been established, while an increase in numbers of the Laughing Gull, Common Tern, Sparrow Hawk and Carolina Wren has been noted."

L. J.

THE ONTARIO NATURAL SCIENCE BULLETIN, No. 8, 1913.

In an article entitled "Conditions Against Which Bird Life is Contending, by Mr. Fred Mitchell, the Pileated Woodpecker and Winter Wren are mentioned as having entirely disappeared from the region. The forces mentioned as operating to decrease the bird life are the destruction of forests, the red squirrel, bird dogs allowed to run wild, and the destruction of nests and birds by boys and thoughtless men. A strong plea is made for the establishment of real bird preserves, where the adverse conditions may be reduced to a minimum.

L. J.

BLUE-BIRD, FORMERLY NATURE AND CULTURE.

This much improved Ohio Audubon Monthly, under the editorial management of Dr. Eugene Swope, migrates regularly from 4 West Seventh Street, Cincinnati, Ohio. It is one of the best magazines devoted to the Audubon Society cause. The slight confusion regarding the number of the volume which seems to have been incident to the change of name will doubtless be remedied.

ORNITHOLOGICAL JOURNALS.

The *Auk*. The July and October issues have appeared since this journal was noticed in these pages. Of the ten articles in the July number the leading article by Witmer Stone, "Bird Migration Rec-